

Fiesta!: Do-At-Home Activities

These activities help young children learn to tell right words, practice fine motor skills, develop language skills, and practice their first and last names.

I Say the Wrong Word, You Say the Right Word?

(Good for 12- to 15-month-olds)

When toddlers are learning to talk, they often use one word to mean many similar things. Rather than tell him he is wrong, if your toddler points at a truck and says, "car," point at the truck and say "Oh, you see the big red truck. That's a truck!" If he points at Uncle Juan and says "Dada," say, "That's Uncle Juan." Say, "Hi Uncle Juan."



What's In the Bag?

(Good for 18- to 24-month-olds)

★ Go for a walk around the block or around the house with your toddler. Take a small bag or sack with you. When your child seems interested in something small enough to fit in the bag, pick it up to let her look more closely. Tell her what it is and then put it in the bag. Then when you have collected three or four things, you can take them out of the bag one at a time and name each item again. If she is starting to talk, you can encourage her to repeat the name of the item.



Copy My Line

(Good for 15- to 18-month-olds)

Get a big sheet of paper or a paper grocery bag. Sit with your toddler in your lap. With a big crayon or a pencil, draw a line across the paper. Ask your child to draw a line like yours. Then draw a line from the top to the bottom of the paper and see if your child can copy that line.



Your child is learning how to hold a pencil and make simple lines. Don't be surprised if your child scribbles on the paper. That's okay. Try playing copy my line on another day.

First Name, Last Name

(Good for 24- to 30-month-olds)

Tell your child his first and last name. Make up songs and stories using both his names. Show him a picture of himself and ask him who that is. Get him to tell you his first and last name. If he only tells you his first name, say something fun, such as, "I know a little boy named Mike Smith (not his last name). Are you Mike Smith? No? Are you Mike Green? No? Are you Mike Pumpkin? No? What is your last name? If he still can't remember, say, "I think you might be Mike ____ (say his last name), my very own boy," and give him a hug.



Literacy and Language Development

What your child is doing

- Enjoys looking at books with you
- Listens to stories for short while
- Begins to understand how to handle books
- Points to object or picture when it's named for her

What your child is saying and learning

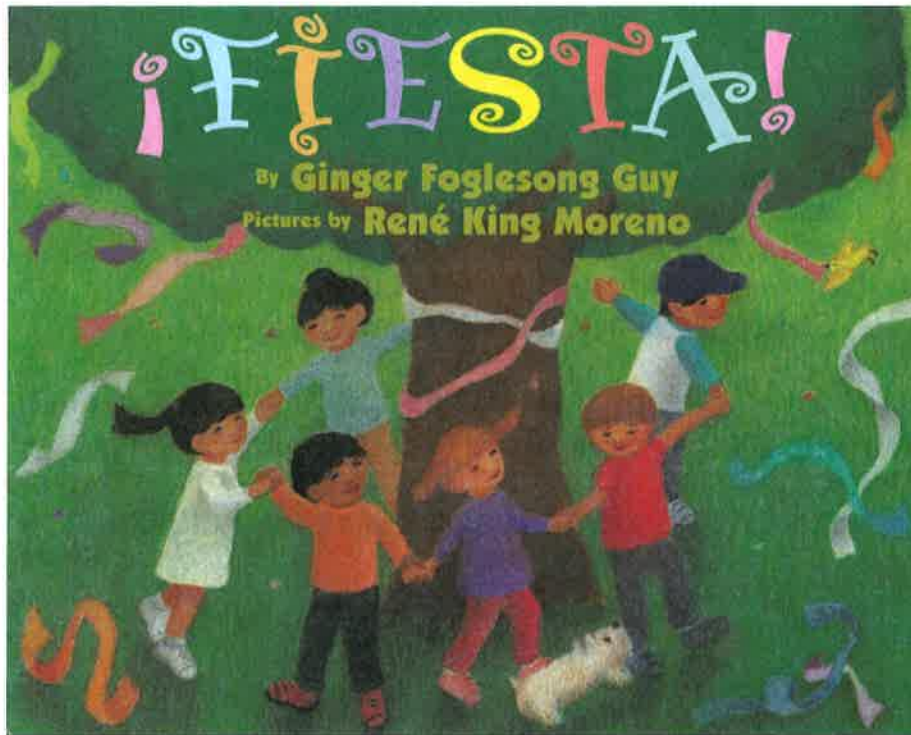
- Knows 250-320 words
- Gains five or more words per week
- Begins to say short sentences using two or three words
- Names pictures, follows simple stories
- Follows simple instructions
- Asks for information about things

What you can do

- Talk about the pictures as you read
- Keep child's attention as you read the book
- Use books to calm or distract child while waiting
- Praise your child's efforts to talk and listen
- Try to read with you toddler every day. It's okay to stop if your toddler gets tired or fidgety and start again at another time



Suggestions for Reading *Fiesta!* to Toddlers



Here are some ideas to help you read *Fiesta!*:

- Your child learns new words when you point to the pictures. Repeat the names of the objects several times. Also help your child learn to count the things the story children gather to fill out the piñata.
- Pay attention to what your child is looking at and tell him what things are called in the story. For example, if your child is looking at the drawing of the guitar, explain that a guitar is used to play music.
- Give your child the opportunity to hold the book and turn the pages. Maybe your child likes to pretend that he is reading the book on his own. Give him time to do it.

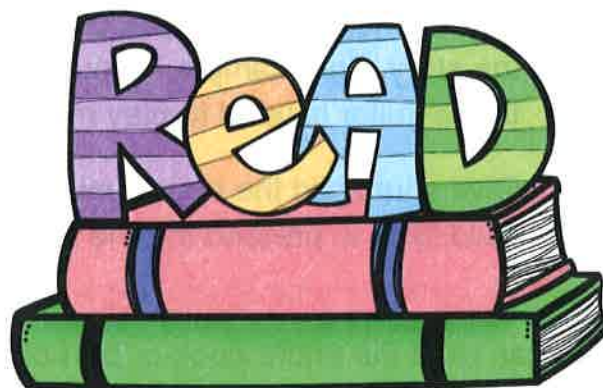
You can read the entire book or part of the book to your child. If your child gets tired of reading, you can tell him it's okay to stop reading. You can read the book again on another occasion.

Fiesta! is best for toddlers ages 19-24 months, but can be used for younger or older children as well.

Other Books for This Age

Books are a great way to help children learn new words and build their vocabulary. The books listed below have many new words and ideas that are perfect for growing toddlers.

- *Get to Work Trucks* by Don Carter. Roaring Brook Press, 2002
- *Bounce* by Doreen Cronin. Antheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007
- *Snuggle Up, Sleepy Ones* by Claire Freedman. Tiger Tales, 2013
- *Where is the Green Sheep?* by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2009
- *Moo, Baa, La La La* by Sandra Boynton. Little Simon, 1982



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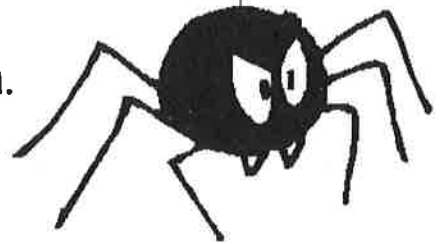
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The Itsy, Bitsy Spider

The itsy, bitsy spider climbed up the waterspout.
(Walk fingers up in the air.)

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
(Drop hands quickly down.)

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
(Make circle out of hands.)



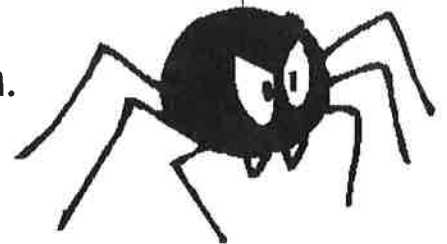
So the itsy, bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.
(Walk fingers up in the air.)

The Itsy, Bitsy Spider

The itsy, bitsy spider climbed up the waterspout.
(Walk fingers up in the air.)

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
(Drop hands quickly down.)

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
(Make circle out of hands.)



So the itsy, bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.
(Walk fingers up in the air.)

